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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Ralph Bauer

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EXAMINER

YOON, TAE H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1762

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/823,400	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BAUER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Tae H. Yoon	<b>Art Unit</b> 1762	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2010 and 08 December 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,7,10-22,24,26-34 and 55-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,7,10-22,24,26-34 and 55-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/8/10</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

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The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10-22, 24, 26-34 and 55-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Rejection is maintained for reason of record with following response.

Applicant states that generally, rheological properties measured at a time after 24 hours, such as 72 hours or a week, are constant and that the ASTM standard (D2801) for flow and leveling specifies that the test be performed after an initial period, which allows for an equilibration time.

But, applicant failed to state that ASTM standard (D2801) calls for a measurement either right after or at 24 or 48 hours after stabilization, not after 24 hours, such as 72 hours or a week. Rheological properties measured right after 24 hours and at 72 hours or a week would be different. Table D2 of applicant's declaration filed on 2/10/09 shows changing properties at 24 hours and 1 week. At bottom of page 3 of declaration filed on 12/8/10, applicant states only a slight change (1 pt), but said 1 pt change **would be amount to 20% change in Flow and Leveling which is very significant** contrary to applicant assertion.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10-22, 24, 26-34 and 55-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for the coating composition comprising the recited components and amounts thereof in examples, does not reasonably provide enablement for the recited component. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Rejection is maintained for reason of record with following response.

Claims 1, 22 and 59 now recite an architectural or industrial paint or enamel (claim 59 further recite polymer(s), pigment, defoamer and dispersant), but such recitation failed to overcome the rejection since particular components and amounts thereof are missing from said claims 1 and 22 and claim 59 does not recite amounts either.

Applicant asserts that the examiner failed to consider the eight factors identified by the court, but such assertion lacks probative value since the examiner had responded to said eight factors which are repeated below with additional responses:

A. Breadth of Claims; Applicant asserts that the broadest reasonable interpretation should be consistent with the specification and that claims recite an architectural or industrial paint or enamel.

The recited properties cannot be stand alone and they are dependent on particular components of a composition. **Note that the rejection is based on the scope of enablement, not enablement *per se*.** Dependent claims (acrylic polymer of

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claim 3, 0.5-10 or 0.5-2 wt.% of boehmite of claims 10 and 11 and a generic paint of claims 61, 63 and 64) also do not overcome the rejection and applicant failed to provide why they are patentable over the independent claims. Note that the examiner had not questioned the species of boehmite (activated boehmite).

Applicant asserts that species of polymer, the type of surface coating, a species of bohemite, compositional ranges of bohemite and additional properties of the surface coating were not considered by the examiner, but said dependent claims would not overcome the rejection for obvious following reasons:

1. Only acrylic polymer is recited in claim 4 and said acrylic alone is not sufficient for a paint, for example, which would require various additives and amounts thereof such as high pigment loading, coalescent, surfactant, defoamer, water/solvents, to name a few. Especially, the instant pp [0032] teaches a coating composition (TEW-463) supporting the recited properties comprising;

1. A thickener comprising 5-15 pounds of (activated) boehmite and 5-15 pounds of nanoclay.

2. 123.2 pounds of deionized water,

3. 1.5 pounds of Drew L405 defoamer.

4. 11.1 pounds of Tamol 731 pigment dispersant.

5. 1.5 pounds of Triton CF-10 pigment wetting agent.

6. 195 pounds of Ti-Pure R-706 rutile titanium dioxide.

7. 523 pounds of Maincote HG-56 (Rohm & Haas' acrylic emulsion).

8. 4 pounds of 28% ammonium hydroxide solution.

9. 40 pounds of benzyl alcohol.
10. 15 pounds of dibutyl phthalate.
11. 2.5 pounds of Foamaster and
12. 9 pounds of 15% sodium hydroxide in water. (Total 945.8 pounds)

The above composition is very complex with respect to various components and amounts thereof used, and thus the recited an architectural or industrial paint or enamel comprising an emulsion and 0.1-20.0 wt.% of boehmite as mandatory components in claims would not be supported by said example.

Also, the total solid contents of a paint would play an important role for the recited properties (a higher solid content with a lower amount of solvent would stabilize the paint quickly with good properties but a lower solid content with a higher amount of solvent would stabilize the paint slowly with less preferred properties), but claims are silent as to that effect.

2. A minimum amount of 0.5% of boehmite in 2% acrylic emulsion would not yield the recited properties.

3. Again, physical properties of the boehmite in claims 14-19 alone, for example, would not change properties of a composition comprising 0.5% of boehmite and 2% acrylic emulsion much.

4. The recitation of the coating properties in the dependent claim would not remedy the issues involved in the independent claim.

5. Applicant asserts that the examiner failed to articulate analysis of the dependent claims for enablement. But, the enablement of the dependent claims would

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be dependent on the independent claim (generic claim) since the instant dependent claims do not remedy the issues/problems of the independent claim (generic claim) pointed out by the examiner. Also, applicant failed to point out which dependent claims remedy said issues/problems of the independent claim (generic claim).

B. Nature of the invention, State of the Art and Level of Skill in the art;

1. The nature of the invention is not clear contrary to applicant's statement since various components and amounts thereof would be needed as taught in pp [0032], but the independent claims recite an architectural or industrial paint or enamel comprising only an emulsion and 0.1-20.0 wt.% of boehmite as mandatory components.

2. State of the art; even though the prior art teach employing boehmite particles, the prior art do not recognize that the activated boehmite provides a balanced thickening effect **with the recited properties**. Thus, it would not be mature.

3. Level of Skill in the art; addition of various thickeners to a coating composition is known and thus the level of skill in the art is not considered high contrary to applicant's assertion. **UCAR latex 379G brochure submitted by applicant suggests formulations for paints and thus the level of skill in the art is not considered high since anyone can mix said suggested formulations.**

Applicant asserts that Knowledge of Coating Solutions is High at page 4 of Declaration filed on 12/8/10, but he also states that the complexity of performing such experimentation is **low** for one educated in the art at page 15. Thus, such two statements are contradictory to each other.

4. Applicant asserts that UCAR latex 379G brochure provides example formulations and that BYK-1650 Defoamer brochure also provides guidelines. However, the examiner sees significant variations between components and amounts used in the instant examples and that suggested by UCAR latex 379G brochure. Had applicant shown that the recited properties can be obtained by a simple addition of 0.1 wt% of boehmite to the formulation suggested by UCAR latex 379G brochure, applicant's argument would have probative value, but that is not the case here. Applicant had modified components and amounts significantly in order to obtain the recited properties.

C. Level of Predictability in the art; again, applicant asserts that what is well-known is best omitted, but such assertion has little probative value since it is not well known what the claimed polymeric emulsion would encompass. Polymers can be various water soluble and water-dispersible polymers. Applicant's examples show paints with an acrylic binder with high amount of pigment and various other additives which already possess decent values for flow and leveling and sag resistance without the instant boehmite particles. Various binders for paints are known such as acrylic, alkyd, urethane and paints having various properties are also well known such as wall or ceiling paint, flat, semi-gloss, gloss, high sheen and/or low sheen, for example, even without considering amount of the binder and pigment and other additives. Thus, the scope of the claimed composition is not well-known as asserted by applicant.

Applicant asserts that the relationship of flow and leveling and sag resistance is predictable since varying amount of conventional thickeners provides an inverse



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relationship, but the examiner disagrees with applicant since the data in table 5 and 6 of the 1.132 declaration (8/17/09) is hardly considered the inverse relationship.

Furthermore, applicant now states that the recited flow and leveling and sag resistance is based on the stabilized solution (after 72 hours) and thus the method (after 24 hours) used in said 1.132 declaration lacks probative value. The examiner disagrees with applicant's statement that a reasonable amount of experimentation would be needed in producing a surface coating commensurate in scope with the present claims since the nature of the claimed surface coating is not taught adequately other than one base paint composition containing a large amount of pigments and other additives which already possesses good flow and leveling and sag resistance.

**Furthermore, the paint compositions in tables 5 and 6 in said 1.132 declaration (8/17/09) fall within scope of claimed composition (a polymeric emulsion and particular (small) amount of activated boehmite (a base compound inherently activates boehmite)), but fail to produce the instant flow and leveling and sag resistance. That is another evidence for unpredictability which would require undue experimentation.**

Contrary to applicant assertion, the prior art teach the use of activated boehmite since the compositions of the prior art contain a base which inherently activates said boehmite and thus applicant's assertion that one skilled in the art recognize the invention after reading the applicant's disclosure lacks probative value. One does not need to recite inherent properties. A realization of the inherent property alone does not warrant a patent. Applicant asserts that applicant have demonstrated that the

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composition of Elsik does not have the instant properties inherently. However, the data in the declaration filed on 2/10/09 missed point since the prior art rejection was based on the addition of boehmite (having the instant aspect ratio) taught by Bugosh in the paint of Elsik. Said data are not based on the use of boehmite having the instant aspect ratio taught by Bugosh. As a matter of fact, said data supports the examiner in that the addition of boehmite to any known paint would not yield the instant properties.

**Applicant asserts that the order of mixing would be also important, but such mixing is not claimed limitation.**

D. Amount of Direction, Existence of Working Examples and Quantity of Experimentation; the use of one base paint composition containing a large amount of pigments and other additives which already possesses good flow and leveling and sag resistance is taught. Thus, such showing failed to meet said recited parameters.

Again, undue experimentation (*In re Wand*, 858 F.2d at 737, 8 USPQ2d at 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988) would be needed in order to find out the recited properties for different compositions (components and amounts thereof). The mandatory components recited in the claims are only a polymer in an emulsion (or latex) without any particular polymer (except claim 4 but the recited acrylic is still very broad) and amount thereof and 0.1 to 20.0 wt% of the recited boehmite particles. Thus, a composition comprising 1 wt% of any polymeric latex and 0.1 wt% of the recited boehmite particles falls within scope of the instant claims but such composition would not yield the recited properties and

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applicant failed to show otherwise. Claim 59 recites an acrylic emulsion, a styrene modified acrylic emulsion or a polyvinyl acetate emulsion with three additional components **without any amount thereof** and thus said claim 59 files to overcome the rejection.

Applicant asserts that the claims recite a composition and properties associated with the composition and that such properties are part of the scope of the claims. The examiner agrees with applicant's statement that the composition and properties are related to each other, but the recited properties are based on the particular composition having reasonable base properties such as known commercial paints used in applicant's 1.132 declaration (8/17/09), not any polymer emulsion recited in the instant claim, by adding the recited amount of boehmite particles. A polymeric emulsion composition without having reasonable base properties will not yield the recited properties by just adding the recited amount of boehmite particles.

Had applicant shown that a paint composition comprising 2 wt% of an acrylic polymer emulsion which falls within the scope of the instant claim and 0.1 or 5 wt% of the recited boehmite particles have yielded the instantly recited properties, the examiner's instant position would have been weak, but that is not case here. Applicant also asserts that what is well-known is best omitted, but such assertion has little probative value since it is not known what the claimed polymeric emulsion would encompass. Polymers can be various water soluble and water-dispersible polymers. Applicant's examples show paints with an acrylic binder with high amount of pigment and various other additives which already possess decent values for flow and leveling

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and sag resistance without the instant boehmite particles. Various binders for paints are known such as acrylic, alkyd, urethane and paints having various different properties are also well known such as wall or ceiling paint, flat, semi-gloss, gloss, high sheen and/or low sheen, for example, even without considering amount of the binder and pigment and other additives. Thus, the scope of the claimed composition is not well-known as asserted by applicant.

An addition of 0.1-20 wt% of the recited boehmite particles in any polymeric emulsion with a low concentration alone would not yield the instant properties and such properties are dependent on various other factors such as polymers, pigments, surfactants, non-associative thickeners (such as colloidal clay or silica), co-solvents other than water and amounts thereof, to name a few, but such limitations are absent from the instant claims.

**Also, applicant has stated that improvements in flow and leveling often comes with a sacrifice to sag resistance and vise-versa at the bottom of page 8 in said 1.132 declaration, and such statement is the proof that the results are *unpredictable* which would require undue experimentation.**

**Applicant asserts that the complexity of performing such experimentation is low. However, the examiner sees significant variations between components and amounts used in the instant examples and that suggested by UCAR latex 379G brochure. Had the complexity of performing such experimentation is low as asserted by applicant, applicant needed to add the activated boehmite to the formulation suggested by UCAR latex 379G brochure, but that is not the case**

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here. **Applicant had modified components and amounts significantly in order to obtain the recited properties.**

**In summary, applicant is asking the third party to figure the claimed composition having the recited properties of flow and leveling and sag resistance out rather than presenting enabling claims which provides the third party with a clear compositional limitation.**

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10-22, 24, 26-34 and 55-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The recited values for flow and leveling and sag resistance are indefinite absent the time of measurement since applicant's 1.132 declaration filed on February 10, 2009 shows that such values would change with time (see an example with Catapal D in Table D2).

Applicant states that "stabilized" means "after 24 hours, such as 72 hours or week", but such limitation lacks antecedent basis in specification and thus it is indefinite. Applicant asserts that one would measure the properties after the coating stabilizes, and applicant had stated that said stabilized values are obtained by performing the test after 72 hours at upper portion of page 13 in the last response. However, the

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specification failed to teach such test adequately and Fig. 1 shows the viscosity profile at 2 to 72 hours, but there is no teaching that said flow and leveling and sag resistance were measured after 72 hours (which includes 100 and 200 hours) for the data in table 1 of the specification. Again, 20% change in the property of example with Catapal D in Table D2 would be significant. Thus, it is confusing and indefinite.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10-22, 24, 26-34 and 55-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Elsik et al (US 5,550,180) and Bugosh (US 2,915,475), and in view of Gernon et al (US 2006/0106129 A1).

Rejection is maintained for reason of record with following response.

Applicant asserts that the data of declaration submitted August 17, 2010 (should be 2009) is of stabilized value which is probative and overcome the inherency assertion by the PTO. However, again, the rejection was based on the addition of boehmite having the instant aspect ratio taught by Bugosh in the paint of Elsik. But, said data are not based on the use of boehmite having the instant aspect ratio taught by Bugosh. The examiner did not state that the paint of Elsik would have the instant properties inherently contrary to applicant's assertion, rather the examiner stated that the addition of boehmite having the instant aspect ratio taught by Bugosh in the paint of Elsik would

have the instant properties inherently. A higher aspect ratio would provide higher values of the recited properties inherently due to their entanglement.

Also, **note that any comparison must be based on the closest prior art, not on applicant's own choice as in the instant tables 1 and 2.**

Applicant states that the recited values are based on the measurement after 72 hours, but **the declaration shows the measurement after 24 hours.** Thus, it failed to overcome the rejection.

An invention in a product-by-process is a product, not a process. See ***In re Brown***, 459 F.2d 531, 173 USPQ 685 (CCPA 1972) and ***In re Thorpe***, 777 F.2d 695, 697, 227 USPQ 964 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Thus, the recited process of new claims 60 and 62 lacks probative value.

Applicant asserts unexpected result, but whether an applicant seeks to establish an unobvious difference to overcome an inherency finding or unexpectedly improved results to overcome an obviousness conclusion, the objective evidence an applicant provides must be commensurate in scope with the claims which the evidence is offered to support. In other words, the showing must be reviewed to see if the results occur over the entire claimed range. ***In re Marosi***, 710 F.2d 799, 803 (Fed. Cir. 1983); ***In re Clemens***, 622 F.2d 1029, 1035-36 (CCPA 1980); ***In re Peterson***, 315 F.3d 1325, 1330-31 (Fed. Cir. 2003); ***In re Grasselli***, 713 F.2d 731, 743 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Again, Bugosh is cited to show the instant aspect ratios and a dimension, not a composition and other properties as asserted by applicant. Also, the instant claims are silent as to the composition of the coatings and paints other than well known generic

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polymeric emulsion and the utilization of said polymeric emulsion in said coatings and paints is well known in the art as taught by the various art of record. Contrary to applicant's assertion, Bugosh teaches the use of 1-40% of boehmite in aqueous acrylic paints at col. 29, lines 1-21 and a paint has a basic pH as evidenced by the teaching of Elsik et al which activates the boehmite.

Again, with respect to applicant's assertion with respect to the activated boehmite particles, the instant invention is directed to the composition, not activating the boehmite particles asserted by applicant. Elsik et al teach employing ammonium hydroxide which inherently activates boehmite particles in the paint. Also, **UCAR latex 379G brochure submitted by applicant shows Sodium Hydroxide solution as a mandatory component for a paint formulation.**

Again, with respect to applicant's assertion with respect to Gernon et al, Gernon et al are cited to show **other properties claimed and well known facts in paints.** The addition of boehmite particles of Bugosh in the paints of Elsik et al would have yielded the instant properties and applicant failed to show otherwise.

With respect to the examiner's statement that a leveling score of 8 is taught for a latex compositions for said table 3, applicant asserts said compositions lack boehmite particles and the sag resistance is not taught. However, the rejection does not rely on boehmite particles in Gernon et al and Gernon et al are cited to show **other properties claimed and well known facts in paints with or without an associative thickener.** In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are



based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Again, applicant also asserts that (associative) thickeners can influence some of properties such as the viscosity and leveling, and the examiner agrees with applicant. However, *Elsik et al* teach compositions without associative thickeners. Furthermore, the instant claims permit other thickeners such as colloidal silica and/or non-associative thickeners which would influence the viscosity and leveling.

**Again, rejection is based on the addition of boehmite particles taught by Bugosh in the paint of *Elsik et al*, and applicant failed to show any unexpected result.** Again, see *In re Marosi*, 710 F.2d 799, 803 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Clemens*, 622 F.2d 1029, 1035-36 (CCPA 1980); *In re Peterson*, 315 F.3d 1325, 1330-31 (Fed. Cir. 2003); *In re Grasselli*, 713 F.2d 731, 743 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Some points stated by applicant in the declaration filed on 12/06/10 are based on his opinion which has little probative value, and the responses to other points are presented above. Declaration of Dr. Yener filed on August 17, 2009 were discussed previously and above and found unpersuasive. Applicant asserts that the experimentation by Dr. Yener showed that not all latex formulations necessarily have the claimed Flow and Leveling and Sag Resistant properties. But, again, said data are not based on the use of boehmite having the instant aspect\_ratio taught by Bugosh in the paint of *Elsik*. Also, applicant's statement that the experimentation by Dr. Yener showed that not all latex formulations necessarily have the claimed Flow and Leveling

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and Sag Resistant properties would support the examiner's position since the paint of Elsik falls within scope of the instantly claimed paint except boehmite having the instant aspect ratio. Thus, the addition of 0.1-20 wt% of activated boehmite having the instant aspect ratio to any paint composition (the instant claim would encompass any paint with various components and amounts thereof) would not yield the instant properties.

Again, the paint formulations inherently contain basic component such as sodium hydroxide or amine compound which inherently activates boehmite as discussed above and previously. Contrary to applicant's assertion that Elsik and Bugosh do not disclose activating boehmite, Elsik teaches employing amine compounds.

Again, the total solid contents of a paint would play an important role for the recited properties (a higher solid content with a lower amount of solvent would stabilize the paint quickly with good properties but a lower solid content with a higher amount of solvent would stabilize the paint slowly with less preferred properties), but claims are silent as to that effect.

All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tae H. Yoon whose telephone number is (571) 272-1128. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tae H Yoon/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1762

THY/February 22, 2011